

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-23 were pending. Claims 4, 5, and 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Claims 1, 8, and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 12-23 remain pending.

It is respectfully submitted that the filing date appearing on the cover page of the Office Action, that is, December 22, 2003, is inconsistent with the filing date accorded by the USPTO earlier. As shown on the stamp on the return postcard from the USPTO (a copy of which is enclosed), the filing date accorded by the USPTO was November 3, 1998. Appropriate correction is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for finding claims 5, 11, and 13-20 allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to include substantially all the limitations of claims 5 and 11 and any intervening claims, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims 1 and 8 and their respective dependent claims 2-3, 6-7, and 12 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,528,587 of Galand ("Galand"). For the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 8, claims 1-3, 6-8, and 12 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 as amended sets forth "prefetching a next buffer description from the buffer descriptor table." In contrast, Galand fails to disclose at least this limitation. Galand merely discloses a data communication adapter for high speed packet

transmission. The data communication adapter in Galand has a number of buffers and buffer pointers. Galand does not disclose prefetching a next buffer description from the buffer descriptor table. Therefore, Galand fails to anticipate claim 21 as amended.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-23 depend from claim 21. Thus, having additional limitations, claims 22-23 are not anticipated by Galand for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 21. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Note that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the assertions and arguments with respect to the rejections under § 102(b) set forth in the Office Action. Nevertheless, Applicants amend claims 1, 8, and 21 to include subject matter indicated to be allowable in the Office Action solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of a patent.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the originally filed claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 21-23 in a continuation of the current application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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